

6th November 1957]

SRI V. K. RAMASWAMI MUDALIAR : May I know from the Hon. Minister the steps taken by the Government to prevent the further formation of slums?

MR. SPEAKER : I think that is a separate question.

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : We have not yet taken any decision on that matter.

MR. SPEAKER : Questions are over.

[*Note.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]*

III.—CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE UNDER RULE 40 OF THE ASSEMBLY RULES RE THE PLIGHT OF HUT DWELLERS DURING HEAVY RAIN IN THE CITY OF MADRAS.

MR. SPEAKER : Notice has been received from hon. Member Sri S. M. Annamalai calling attention of the Hon. Minister for Finance to a matter of urgent public importance, viz., the pitiable plight of hut dwellers in the City of Madras.

SRI S. M. ANNAMALAI : ஸ்ரீபிர் ஸார், சென்ற சில நாட்களாக 9-38
சென்னை நகரத்திலே மிகவும் பலமாக மழை பெய்ததன் காரணமாக
ஸ்தாபபேட்டை ஆற்று ஓரத்தில் இருக்கக்கூடிய குடிசைகள் அடித்து
கொண்டு போகப்பட்டிருக்கின்றன. அதுபோலவே வியாஸர்பாடு இன்னும்
சில இடங்களில்கூட பல குடிசைகள் அடித்துக்கொண்டு போகப்பட்டிருக்கின்
றன. இதை நாங்கள் அங்கே நேரில் சென்று பார்த்தோம். அப்படிப்
பார்க்கும்பொழுது அங்கு இருந்த மக்கள் உணவு கொடுக்கவில்லை என்று
சொன்னார்கள். இப்பொழுது அமைச்சர் அவர்கள் கேள்வி நேரத்தின்
பொழுது உணவு தரப்படுகிறது என்று சொன்னது குறித்து மதிப்புச்சி
உறுகிறேன். அதுபோல 100 பேர்கள் தங்கக்கூடிய ஒரு இடத்தில்
சமர்ப் 50 அல்லது 100 பேர்களை அடைத்து வைத்திருக்கிறார்கள். அவர்கள்
அந்த நிலைமையில் சமயைல் செய்துகூட சாப்பிடமுடியாமல் இருக்கிறார்கள்.
அவர்கள் தங்குவதற்கு உடனடியாக ஏற்பாடு செய்துதாவண்டுமென்று
கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். அதுவும் தவிர, சேரி ஒழிப்பு திட்டத்தின் கீழ்
அப்படிப்பட்ட மக்களுக்கு உடனடியாக வீடுகளை கட்டிக்கொடுக்கவேண்டும்.
வருங்காலத்தில் ஸ்தாபபேட்டை ஆற்று ஓரத்தில் வீடுகள் கட்டாமல்,
அதற்கு வேறு தகுதி இடங்களை ஏற்பாடு செய்துகொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்று
சென்னைமாநில அரசியலாரைக் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். இப்படி சில
சமயங்களில் மழை பெய்தால் மக்கள் தங்க வசதி இல்லாமல் தவிப்பதை
உடனடியாக கவனித்து சேரி ஒழிப்பு திட்டத்தின் கீழ் அவர்களுக்கு உடனடியாக தங்க வசதி செய்துகொடுக்கவேண்டும். மழையின் காரணமாக வீடு இழந்து கண்டிப்படும் எல்லா மக்களுக்கும் உணவு வசதிகள் செய்துகொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

நேற்று நாங்கள் சென்ற விசாரித்தபொழுது ஸ்தாபபேட்டை ஆற்றங்களை நேரத்தில் இருக்கக்கூடிய சலவைத் தொழிலாளர்களின் 2,000 துணிகள் அடித்துக்கொண்டு செல்லப்பட்டதாகச் சொன்னார்கள். அந்த ஏழைத் தொழிலாளிகள் 2,000 துணிகளுக்கு நல்ல ஈடு கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்று சொன்னால் அது அவர்களால் முடியாத காரியம். அதையால் சென்னை மாநில அரசியலார் சலவைத் தொழிலாளர்களுக்கு இதற்கு தகுந்த ஏற்பாடுகளைச் செய்யவேண்டுமென்று மிகவும் தாழ்மையுடன் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

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THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Mr. Speaker, the following are the places that were seriously affected on account of heavy rains and where there is not only stagnation of water but in certain places even some huts and other kutcha buildings are very much damaged :—

North Madras.—In Division 1, in Tondiar Nagar and Coronation Nagar, there was stagnation of water. Ditch drains were cut to relieve stagnation.

In Division 2 in Palmyra Kuppam very near the seashore on account of high tides in the sea, the area was heavily flooded and some huts are also affected.

In Division 5, in Lalagunta, in Seshachala Gramani Garden very many huts were almost flooded. By removal of obstruction in cross-ditches and culverts, water was made to flow freely and some relief was given.

In Division 6, in Patel Road, Ganesapuram, etc., by cutting ditch drains, removal of obstructions in road culverts, etc., water was made to flow freely.

In Perambur and Sembium areas, nearly 200 huts were affected on account of heavy rain particularly on 5th November 1957 and they have almost collapsed. In the Paper Mills Road from the Church right up to the Railway Colony, there was very heavy flooding. Fire engine service was availed of to bale out water and it gave some relief. The people affected in these areas were allowed to occupy the Corporation Elementary School Buildings. They were also given meals day-before-yesterday and yesterday.

Ayanavaram is another area very seriously affected. Here not only culverts but open ditch drains were also cut. One road leading from Ayanavaram to the Integral Coach Factory was actually cut to give relief to stagnation and to avoid dislocation of communications, some palmyra planks were put across to make it fordable.

South Madras.—In Saidapet, near Marmalang Bridge, 20 to 30 huts were almost washed out. People were housed in the Engineering College buildings, Guindy. In Tank Bund Road and Lake View Road, there was stagnation of water. Some broad openings were made to drain out water into ditch drains and storm water drains.

In Saidapet, certain hutting areas were affected. The service of fire engines was made use of, to pump out water and give relief. In the City Improvement Trust Colony behind the City Improvement Trust Office, Saidapet, a few huts were affected.

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The main storm water channel of Thyagarayanagar which was overflowing was cleared at each and every cross-culvert and water was made to flow freely into Adyar. By this the level of water was brought down and the flood near the City Improvement Trust Office subsided.

One difficulty experienced yesterday morning was that even though water could be pumped out with the aid of fire engines, it was difficult to find an outlet for the water baled out as the open drains, side drains and storm water drains were all overflowing.

In 43rd Division, in Muthiah Mudali street off Lloyds Road and in Rama Rao Gardens off Venkatachala Mudali street, some huts and some mud houses were damaged. Fire engines were used to bale out water.

In 44th Division, in Edward Elliots Road, behind the office of the Inspector-General of Police, some huts were affected. In Appasamy Koil Garden, in Basha Thottam and behind the Timber Depot in Barbers Bridge Road, some huts were affected.

The Emergency Flood Relief Scheme drawn up by the Corporation for the purpose of affording prompt relief in the case of flood, etc., was immediately put into operation since day-before-yesterday. The Special Engineer who is in charge of this scheme and all the Assistant Engineers are going round the City and inspecting the affected places and doing the needful to relieve stagnation, etc. The feeding of the affected people, wherever there is absolute necessity for it, has been ordered up to yesterday night and the Health Officer who is in charge of the Corporation Midday Meals Centres is attending to this work.

The Commissioner, the Deputy Commissioner, the Collector of Madras, the Special Engineer and all the Assistant Engineers went round the affected areas and gave first priority to this urgent work.

I may also inform the House that the Hon. the Chief Minister is touring the City visiting these affected areas and all necessary measures will be undertaken for the purpose of affording protection to the people from rain and also, wherever necessary, to arrange for the feeding of the people during this difficult period. We thought that the rain would stop, but, unfortunately, the indications are that it is likely to continue for a day or two more, which would make the position a little more difficult. The Government are fully aware of the situation and the Corporation and the other authorities are taking all the necessary measures to give protection to the people and also to see that no unnecessary damage is caused either to the huts or to the people.